



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Welcome to the Legislative Update for November 2016

This email newsletter is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep older Arizonans and advocates of aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight federal legislation or activities affecting older Americans. **Between legislative sessions of the Arizona State Legislature**, the abbreviated *Legislative Updates* focuses on news and information. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

(Be sure to open the **links** throughout this issue for the latest information and resources.)

Election Results

Arizona Secretary of State: <http://results.arizona.vote/2016/General/n1591/Results-State.html#featured>

Legislative results: <http://results.arizona.vote/2016/General/n1591/Results-State.html#legislative>

New Leadership at the Arizona State Legislature

House of Representatives: Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard, House Majority Leader John Allen, House Majority Whip Kelly Townsend; House Minority Leader Rebecca Rios, House Assistant Minority Leader Randy Friese, and House Minority Whip Charlene Fernandez

Senate: Senate President Steve Yarbrough, Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Yee, Senate Majority Whip Gail Griffin, President pro tempore Debbie Lesko; Senate Minority Leader Katie Hobbs, Senate Assistant Minority Leader Steve Farley, and Senate Minority Co-Whips Martin Quezada and Lupe Contreras

FEDERAL OVERVIEW

Updates

H.R.6084

Improving Cancer Treatment Education Act of 2016

Introduced on 9/20/2016 by Representative Steve Israel (NY-3)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide comprehensive cancer patient treatment education under the Medicare program and to provide for research to improve cancer symptom management. Includes caregivers in education.

On 9/27/2016 referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

S.1490

Senior Fraud Prevention Act of 2015

Introduced on 6/3/2015 by Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN)

Directs the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to establish an office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection to advise the FTC on the prevention of fraud targeting seniors and to assist the FTC in monitoring the market for mail, television, Internet, telemarketing, and recorded message telephone call (robocall) fraud targeting seniors.

Requires the FTC, through such office, to: (1) disseminate to seniors and their families and caregivers information on the most common fraud schemes, including methods of reporting complaints either to the FTC's national toll-free telephone number or to the FTC's Consumer Sentinel Network, where complaints become immediately available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, state attorneys general, and other appropriate law enforcement agencies; (2) provide, in response to a specific request about a particular entity or individual, publicly available information regarding the FTC's enforcement action; and (3) maintain a website as a resource for information on fraud targeting seniors.

Directs the FTC to establish procedures through such office to: (1) log and acknowledge the receipt of complaints by individuals who believe they have been a victim of such fraud in the Consumer Sentinel Network and to make such complaints immediately available to federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities; and (2) provide individuals with information on such fraud as well as the most common schemes.

**On 11/15/2016 placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.
Calendar No.663.**

S.1916

Rural Health Care Connectivity Act of 2015

Introduced on 8/3/2015 by Senator John Thune (SD)

Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to include skilled nursing facilities among the types of health care providers who may request from a telecommunications carrier under the Universal Service Fund the necessary telecommunications and information services to serve persons who reside in rural areas at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates charged for similar services in urban areas.

**On 10/27/2016 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar Under General Orders.
Calendar No. 659**

Other Legislation

H.R.6274

Hospital Outcomes Act of 2016

Introduced on 9/28/2016 by Representative Erik Paulsen (MN-3)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create incentives for healthcare providers to promote quality healthcare outcomes and for other purposes.

On 10/7/2016 referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.6265

Medigap Consumer Protection Act of 2016

Introduced on 9/28/2016 by Representative Jim McDermott (WA-7)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain reforms with respect to Medicare supplemental health insurance policies.

On 10/7/2016 referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.6226

PUSH Act of 2016

Introduced on 9/28/2016 by Representative Tom Price (GA-6)

To delay the Medicare demonstration for pre-claim review of home health services and for

other purposes.

On 10/6/2016 referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.6184

Medicare Enrollment Protection Act

Introduced on 9/27/2016 by Representative Robert J. Dold (IL-10)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a special enrollment period under Medicare for individuals enrolled in COBRA continuation coverage and for other purposes.

On 10/4/2016 referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.6109

Medicare Affordability and Enrollment Act of 2016

Introduced on 9/21/2016 by Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-6)

To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the affordability and enrollment procedures of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

On 9/28/2016 referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.6088

Hospital Quality Rating Transparency Act of 2016

To delay for one year the release of the Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings, and for other purposes.

On 9/28/2016 referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.6070

Safe Recovery and Community Empowerment Act

Introduced on 9/20/2016 by Representative Darrell E. Issa

To amend the Fair Housing Act to better protect persons with disabilities and communities.

On 9/30/2016 referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

H.Res.899

Expressing support for a stable and sustainable funding source for the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program

Introduced on 9/28/2016 by Representative David G. Reichert (WA-8)

Expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the THCGME Program should be protected and sustained. The program awards grants to health centers for primary care residency programs.

On 9/28/2016 referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S.3477

A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide information regarding vaccines for seniors as part of the Medicare & You handbook and to ensure that the treatment of cost sharing for vaccines under Medicare part D is consistent with the treatment of vaccines under Medicare part B and for other purposes.

Introduced on 11/17/2016 by Senator Mazie Hirono (HI)

On 11/17/2016 read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

S.3471

Retirement Enhancement and Savings Act of 2016

Introduced on 11/16/2016 by Senator Orrin G. Hatch (UT)

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes.

On 11/16/2016 placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 670.

S.3454

A bill to improve medication adherence

Introduced on 9/28/2016 by Senator Thomas R. Carper (DE)

Text [HERE](#)

On 9/28/2016 read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

S.3410

Veteran Overmedication Prevention Act of 2016

Introduced on 9/28/2016 by Senator John McCain (AZ)

To direct the Secretary of Veteran Affairs to conduct an independent review of the deaths of certain veterans by suicide, and for other purposes.

On 9/28/2016 read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.3401

Improving Veterans Care in the Community Act of 2016

Introduced on 9/27/2016 by Senator Mike Crapo (ID)

To amend title 38, United States Code, to consolidate and expand the provision of health care to veterans through non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers and for other purposes.

On 9/27/2016 read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.Res.593

A resolution designating September 22, 2016 as National Falls Prevention Awareness Day to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults.

Introduced on 9/29/2016 by Senator Susan M. Collins (ME); Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and a preamble by Unanimous Consent. CR S6274-7275 [HERE](#)

Share your opinions with members of Congress!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your Representative or Senators by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

Links to the membership lists are provided below.

[House](#) members

[Senate](#) members

You can contact the White House at this [link](#).

ALSO: USA.gov provides contact information at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

NEWS& RESOURCES

From Kaiser Health News

October 24, 2016

[Kaiser Health News: For Seniors, Teeth Need Care — But Insurance Coverage Is Rare](#)

November 7, 2016

[Kaiser Health News: Seniors Suffer Amid Widespread Fraud By Medicaid Caretakers](#)

November 10, 2016

[Kaiser Health News: After Colorado, 'Right To Die' Movement Eyes New Battlegrounds](#)

November 14, 2016

[Kaiser Health News: Community Paramedics Work To Link Patients With Mental Health Care](#) and

[Kaiser Health News: Study: Many Caregivers Spend \\$7K Annually Out Of Pocket](#)

National Alzheimer's Project Act updated information can be found at:
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>. The National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease: 2016 Update is available at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/report/national-plan-address-alzheimers-disease-2016-update>

Alzheimer's website: <http://www.alzheimers.gov/>

From the **National Association of States United for Aging and Disability/NASUAD**

Friday Updates, November 18, 2016

State Contracting with Medicare Advantage Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans: Issues and Options

The Integrated Care Resource Center published an issue brief about the issues and options that states have when contracting with Medicare Advantage Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans.

The brief "analyzes D-SNP contracts in 13 states, including states that have made the most extensive use of D-SNP contracting by linking D-SNPs to Medicaid managed long-term services and supports programs. The tool summarizes how these states have developed those linkages and describes the specific care coordination and information-sharing requirements that the states have included in their D-SNP contracts. The D-SNP contracting approaches used by this diverse group of 13 states can provide guidance for states that have varying opportunities and resources for D-SNP contracting."

[Click here](#) to view the publication.

National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

Brief: Coordinated Transportation Planning Information

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) published an issue brief with information about requirements, strategies, and tools for meaningful engagement for older adults and people with disabilities. "This information brief examines federal Section 310 requirements related to meaningful engagement of older adults and people with disabilities in the transportation planning process. The second part of the brief reviews strategies used in public meetings, stakeholder groups, and engagement exercises, and identifies pros and cons of different types of engagement methods depending on their accessibility to participants who are older or who have disabilities."

[Click here](#) to view the brief.

Friday Updates, November 11, 2016

Medicare to Provide Coverage for Supports for Alzheimer's Patients

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced its final decision that starting in 2017 Medicare will pay for individual care plans to support Alzheimer's patients and their families. The move largely implements provisions of the Health Outcomes, Planning and Education (HOPE) for Alzheimer's Act authored by U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, coauthored by Senator Susan Collins, Senator Ed Markey, and

Senator Shelley Moore Capito, as well as being cosponsored by 54 additional Senators.

[Click here](#) to view the announcement.

The Center on Aging & Work at Boston College

FACT OF THE WEEK Monday, November 7, 2016

4 in 10 households age 55+ have housing debt

"For households ages 55 and older, the share with housing debt increased by 8 percentage points between 2001 and 2013" from 32% in 2001 to almost 40% in 2013." And the debt burden - defined as the median ratio of housing debt to household income - increased by more than 50 percentage points for this age group," according to a 2016 analysis of data from the U.S. Survey of Consumer Finances. (p. 3, and Figs. 4, 6, 8)

Munnell, A. H., Hou, W., & Sanzenbacher, G. T. (2016). *How much does housing affect retirement security? an NRRI update*. Chestnut Hill, MA: Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. Retrieved from [this source](#).

From **Family Caregiver Alliance, National Center on Caregiving**

November is National Family Caregivers Month

[**Taking Care of YOU: Self-Care for Family Caregivers**](#)

From **PHI**

New CMS Rules Mandates Including Nursing Assistants in Care Planning [**HERE**](#)

From **ASU**

The Biodesign Institute

Power outage in the brain may be source of Alzheimer's [**HERE**](#)

Governor Ducey has proclaimed November as the kick off to Arizona's Call to Action in the fight against Alzheimer's disease. The [proclamation](#) and resources, and the [Arizona Alzheimer's State Plan](#) are posted on our [homepage](#) under *Office on Aging News*.

INFORMATION& RESOURCES:

Northern Arizona Council of Governments/NACOG Area Agency on Aging

Remaining 4-year plan community forums

November 21, in Flagstaff, Coconino County Community Services, King Street, from 3 – 5 pm

November 29 in Springerville, White Mountain Regional Medical Center, from 1:30 – 3:30 pm

November 30 in Lakeside, Solterra, 9 – 11 am

For more information visit www.nacog.org/aging or call toll-free 1-877-521-3500.

Fiscal News

Joint Legislative Budget Committee

JLBC – Monthly Fiscal Highlights October 2016 [HERE](#)

November 2016 (Arizona Economic Trends) [HERE](#)

In case you missed it last time...

Generation to Generation – a campaign mobilizing adults 50+ to help young people thrive. More information: <http://generationtogether.org/>

Powered by ENCORE.org

From the **Governor's Office**

See the latest news

Newsroom: <http://azgovernor.gov/newsroom>

#AZAWESOME Shareables: <http://azgovernor.gov/governor/shareables>

AHCCS News & Updates:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/news.html>

Arizona Department of Economic Security Feature Stories [HERE](#)

Arizona Attorney General's Senior Resources [HERE](#)

Arizona Department of Health Services

Public Health Licensing [HERE](#)

Arizona Healthy Aging (A- HA) [HERE](#)

Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging/AZ4A

Map of Regions [HERE](#)

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) – free health benefit counseling service for Medicare beneficiaries and their families or caregivers.

More information [HERE](#)

The **SHORT List** web report provided [HERE](#) includes the abbreviated list of bills tracked

by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging during the last session. You can see the final outcome of legislation at the top of the report. (Be sure to click on the bill number for more information including fact sheets, bill versions, amendments, votes, and action taken on the bill.) Please be advised that the presence of a bill on a tracking list **does not** represent support or opposition by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It **does** mean that the topic is something that could be of interest or have an impact on older Arizonans. Information about bill status, hearings, etc. is a purchased service provided by *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Plan ahead for the next legislative session!

See the *NEW Website & features* at: www.azleg.gov website

Need to learn more about the legislative process? See [Arizona Bill](#) or [Bill to Law](#).

Find and review bill information [HERE](#).

Learn about the budget process [HERE](#).

Research the State Constitution [HERE](#).

Learn more at *Frequently Asked Questions* linked [HERE](#).

Share your thoughts at any time!

If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your Legislators, you may voice your thoughts at any time by contacting the:

- **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 in Phoenix; 520-628-6580 in Tucson and in-state toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or
- **Legislators** from your area. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature** website and looking for: [Legislative Maps](#)

If you're interested

Past issues of the *Legislative Updates* are linked on the Council website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>.

You can help circulate resource information. If you would like to submit an **educational** or **public service event** for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description and a link or pdf document to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates and refrain from including marketing or fundraising materials.

Between sessions, we offer the *Legislative Update* on a monthly basis.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging



If you wish to be REMOVED from or know someone who would like to be ADDED to the Update, please send an email to: gaca@az.gov and ask to be unsubscribed or subscribed to the **Legislative Update**.

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
* PH: (602) 542-4710 * Fax: (602) 542-4774 * E: gaca@az.gov